



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SEATON URGES LEGISLATION FOR EMERGENCY USE OF SURPLUS GRAIN FOR WILDLIFE

Legislation authorizing the use of surplus grain by State fish and game departments for emergency use in feeding resident game birds and other wildlife threatened with starvation was requested today by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton.

In a letter to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, Secretary Seaton said: "This proposed legislation is designed to provide a means whereby the States would be enabled to use surplus grain to provide feed to wildlife that is threatened by starvation."

"By the terms of this proposal," Secretary Seaton said, "upon a finding by the Secretary of the Interior that any area of the United States is threatened with serious damage or loss to wildlife from starvation, the particular State involved would be authorized to request from the Commodity Credit Corporation grain acquired by that corporation through price support operations."

Under the legislation, the State would be required to pay the cost of transportation and packaging of the grain.

Secretary Seaton said: "While our experience has been that there are relatively few emergency situations where local or regional game populations are in jeopardy of starvation, we believe that standby authority of this kind may prove valuable in certain circumstances."

"We believe the mechanics of any grain feeding program of this kind, once a decision has been reached that such a program is called for, should be one for the particular State fish and game department to work out with the assistance of the Commodity Credit Corporation along procedural lines indicated in this proposal."

The text of the legislation proposed by Secretary Seaton is attached.

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JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize the use of surplus grain by the States for emergency use in the feeding of--resident game birds and other wildlife, and for other purposes.

Be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of meeting emergency situations caused by adverse weather conditions or other factors destructive of important wildlife resources, the States are hereby authorized, upon a finding by the Secretary of the Interior that any area of the United States is threatened with serious damage or loss to--resident game birds and other wildlife from starvation, to requisition from the Commodity Credit Corporation grain acquired by the corporation through price support operations. Such grain may thereafter be furnished to the particular State for direct and sole utilization by the appropriate State agencies for purposes of this Act in such quantities as mutually agreed upon by the State and the Commodity Credit Corporation and subject to such regulations as may be considered desirable by the corporation. The corporation shall be reimbursed by the particular State in each instance for the expense of the corporation in packaging and transporting such grain for purposes of this Act.

SEC. 2. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for its investment in grain transferred pursuant to this Act.